

NoEL, July 29th, 1870.

We had never a better season for putting our seed in the ground. We proceeded from first to last without losing a day by rain. Our hay crop will be considerably in decrease of that of last year—say one-third. Potatoes early planted, in some instances, rotted; later planted ones make a good appearance. Considerable more Wheat has been sown than for a number of years. Some sown in April and June looks remarkably well. Barley is making a splendid appearance. Indeed, all green crops are very promising at present. Fruit will be short of average.

ROBERT FAULKNER,

Sec'y. of Noel and Maitland Agricultural Society.

PIGS.

SIR,—Every farmer keeps a pig, but I do not recollect ever hearing how much manure any farmer made from his pigs. Many keep their pigs as a kind of watchdog or ornament to their front door—possibly as a companion to the geese that occupy the high road; and even when he is temporarily absent on a cruise, traces of his presence remain in the rooted-up land about the house and highway; but the nuisance of this is recognised by most, and, as a step in advance, the pig has a covered place in which to sleep, and an enclosed yard in which to take the air. My farm is an upland farm; manure must be made, or the farm would not maintain itself, and the pigs are a great assistance. My pig-pens are about six feet square. To each of them a yard of the same size is attached, under the same roof, but open to the air. These yards have been excavated to a depth of about 30 inches, giving room for about six large loads of earth in each. The pig is naturally a clean animal and rarely fouls his bed. Giving him straw inside, he goes into the yard to void his dung. He spends part of his time rooting amongst the earth, tearing up the sods, &c., and, in so doing, thoroughly mixes his dung with the earth. A fair-sized pig will thus work up a load of earth every week into strong manure; and the earth supplied constantly fresh keeps the pig healthy. As my pigs are largely fed on house and garden refuse, I thus obtain a large supply of excellent manure from a source that on most farms is entirely neglected. In addition, I throw into the yard all garden and road weeds, sods from ditch clearings, &c., thus helping to feed the pigs and getting the weeds thoroughly destroyed.

But there are other profits from pigs that have been entirely ignored here—their bristles and skins. Brushes are made from pigs' bristles, saddles from

their skins. Pigs' bristles to the declared value of \$1,020 were imported during the past year. We ought, instead, to have exported over \$5,000 worth. Probably few people are aware that a brush factory is in full operation in Halifax; yet Mr. Tyler, the enterprising proprietor, showed a very creditable assortment of brushes at our Exhibition in 1868, and he is desirous of purchasing his materials in the home market, instead of importing from Russia. The bristles of our pigs are quite fit for the purpose. Those only from the back are suitable for brushes, and at present no demand exists for the hair from the sides; but I have communicated with dealers in hair, and am led to believe that very shortly a profitable market for the sale of this hair, too, may be opened up.

The last census gives us nearly 38,000 farmers in the Province. It is a fair calculation that every farmer kills at least one pig annually. Each pig will give about one-third of a pound of bristles; these properly dried are worth at least 50 cents per lb. Thus, through neglect of this trifle, over \$6,000, which should go into the farmers' pockets, is either sent out of the Province or altogether lost.

In a future number I hope to furnish full particulars of the proper way to treat the bristles, both in removing and drying them, and hope also to be able to speak more decidedly about the value of the side hair. Pork, whether in carcase or in barrel, is always sold with the skin on, as there was a belief—now exploded—that it was the only means of detecting measly pork. Customers, however, still cling to this notion; and, if we want to sell, we must humour the buyer. But with those of us who kill for our own use it is different: the skin so used is wasted. In the barrel, it simply absorbs pickle and takes up room, and when cooked, the rind is cut off and thrown away. Why should the carcase not be skinned like that of any other animal at the time of killing? The pig-skin is far too valuable to be thus wasted. When dressed, a fair-sized pig-skin is worth from two to five dollars. A practical tanner would be able to pronounce better on this point, but I believe that it would be necessary to tan pig-skin with oak-bark, instead of hemlock. Horse-hide tanned with hemlock is comparatively valueless; tanned with oak-bark it is so strong and durable that it is cut into strips for lacing machinery belting in preference to any other kind of leather.

My pig, like the White Chester, has grown to an unreasonable size. In Ireland "the pig pays the rent;" and I believe he would often pay the store bill here, if all was made use of him that could be got. I call him "the farmers' friend."

Obd't. yours, J. W. L.

Oakfield, Aug. 9th, 1870.

MIDDLE RIVER, July 28th, 1870.

Your note of the 5th ult. was duly received, but my absence from home prevented me from replying sooner.

As regards the state of the crops in this district, I am happy to say that, notwithstanding the unusual drought of the months of May and June, the abundant rain in the early part of July has so revived the crops, that, judging from present appearance, the yield in this district will be an average one. Wheat, oats, barley, and buckwheat, never looked better at this season of the year. The potatoes are all in full bloom, and if the disease keeps away, the yield will be a very profitable one.

Before closing this note, I may state that our Agricultural Society here imported from Halifax last season a large quantity of seeds, among which were a quantity of the Ramsdell's Norway Oats; and, judging from its appearance now, the yield will be enormous. I have succeeded in getting thirty ounces of it for my share, and I think I can safely calculate upon five bushels in return. I have sowed it where I had a crop of potatoes last year,—the soil being alluvial and light, somewhat sandy. I gave it a light coat of dry wood-ashes; and now, to look at it as it shoots out in head, it has a healthy appearance.

Our Society is in good standing, and every thing works harmoniously among its members. We have this summer imported two mowing machines, in addition to the one imported last year.

JOHN McLENNAN.

LETTER FROM T. H. RAND, ESQ.

The following, although intended as a private note, will be perused with interest by many of our readers. Mr. Rand, while Superintendent of Education, was a Member of the Board of Agriculture, and took a warm interest in its proceedings. It will be seen that although the object of his European tour is Educational, yet he does not neglect the Agricultural interest:—

CORK, July 28th, 1870.

Allow me to thank you for your kind letters of introduction, which I received all right before leaving Halifax. We had a pleasant trip across, and landed at Queenstown on Sunday, 1.35 A. M.

Among sights of interest I visited the Agricultural Show of the County of Cork, held in Cork on the 27th inst. I forward lists of entries of the Show, thinking they may be of some service to you. The Short Horns were fine—far finer than anything I had ever seen before. So were the Sheep, one of which was estimated to weigh over 300 lbs.